

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY Burma

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SUBJECT Dissension Within the Burmese New
Democracy Movement

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Thakin Chit Chin, on his recent visit to Promé, saw Tin Tun instead of Than Tun, who now lives at Allammyo with Ba Thein Tin.
2. White Flag leader Thakin Chit said that the recent Manifesto of the New Democratic Force (which he described as the New Democracy Movement), though signed by seven men, was really the work of nine leaders. The two additional persons were Bo Kun Zaw, leader of the White Band People's Volunteer Organization PYA(W), and Tai Tun, mutineer of the 3rd Battalion of the Burma Rifles. Bo Kun Zaw was a firm supporter of the movement at its inception, but lately his views have changed because he does not agree with a policy of political murders and enforced subscriptions. His main objection is that he understood the three insurgent parties were in agreement with this new movement and he thought it would be so strong and united that a bloodless coup could be effected. Now he has discovered considerable disagreement between the factions and realizes that more internal strife will result.
3. The original intention of the People's Democratic Force was to take Rangoon with a lightning attack on 29 and 30 April. Military headquarters was established at Paungde (30 miles southeast of Promé), which is at the head of a track across the Pegu Yomas to Pyu. The intention was to send a force across to Pyu so that a drive could be made south from there simultaneously with a thrust along the Promé axis. As part of this plan PYA(W) leaders Si Thu and Tin Maung were detailed to attack the city from Dalla. These PYA leaders refused because they thought the plan was strategically unsound with the Karens holding Insein.
4. Since its beginning, the New Democracy Movement has been weakened because of internal disagreement. In Promé, there is friction over the collection of subscriptions. The lack of cohesiveness in the organization is demonstrated by the fact that the PYA(W), the White Flags, and the mutineers maintain separate headquarters. The PYA(W) at Promé believe that the Communists intend to use all insurgent parties to assist their own coup, but once Rangoon is taken the PYA and others will be left out of office.

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5. Thakin Chit expressed himself as "unhappy" over the present situation. He said that if the New Democracy Movement is a success, they can take Rangoon, but, if not, they will have to think again.
6. While in Prome, Thakin Chit received orders to increase the White Flag propaganda drive to suborn the PYA and win them over to the New Democracy Movement. With this end in view, thirty White Flags, men and women, were sent out to the districts a few days ago. The White Flags have also been instructed to increase their propaganda among strikers and students.
7. Red Flag leaders, Thakin Soe and Pongyi U Sein Da, are not in agreement with the New Democracy Movement, and Thakin Soe has issued a leaflet calling on all Red Flags to attack the PYA(W).
8. PYA(W) cannot decide whether or not to join the White Flags. Two important PYA(W) leaders, Aung Naing and Gamani, have been sent to Prome to discuss matters with PYA(W) leaders there. Gamani is said not to be in agreement with an open revolt against the Government, and these views are shared by Bo Po Kun, who is under open arrest in Thayetmyo.
9. When these PYA(W) leaders return from Prome, a PYA conference is to be held in Rangoon to hear their report and decide to what extent, if any, the PYA will join the White Flags.
10. H. N. Goshal is now at Padaung (in the area of Yamethin) and makes only occasional visits to Prome.

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